

# **List of named animals and plants in Germanic heroic legend**

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Object or horse	Names in medieval languages	Name meaning	Role/possessor	Notes
<u>Barnstokkr</u>	Old Norse: <i>Barnstokkr</i>	"Child trunk". <sup>[1][2]</sup>	A tree in Völsung's hall in the <i>Völsunga saga</i> .	It is noted in connection to Barnstokkr that family trees are still a living tradition in Norway and Sweden, where a centrally positioned tree is "the symbolic centre of the farm and a mimesis of the life and growth of the farm and family". <sup>[2]</sup> See also <u>Sacred trees and groves in Germanic paganism and mythology</u> .
Belche	Middle High German: <i>Belche</i>	From PGmc * <i>balaz-</i> , Gothic <i>bals</i> ("white"), referring to the mark on the horse's forehead. <sup>[3]</sup>	Dietleib von Steier's horse, which is from the same stud as Dietrich von Bern's horse Valke. <sup>[3]</sup>	
Blanke	Middle High German: <i>Blanke</i> , Old Norse: <i>Blanka</i>	From OHG <i>blanc</i> ("white"). <sup>[4]</sup>	The horse ridden by Ilsan. <sup>[4]</sup>	In the <i>Piðreks saga</i> , the horse is a gift from Alibrandr (Hadubrand). <sup>[4]</sup>
Boymont	Middle High German: <i>Boymont</i>	A form of the Norman name Bohemund. <sup>[5]</sup>	Rüdiger von Bechalaren's horse. <sup>[5]</sup>	
Dog king	Old Norse: <i>Raki</i> , Old Norse: <i>Saurr</i>	In Old Icelandic the name <i>Raki</i> means "dog" but in Danish the verb <i>rake</i> can mean "mistreat", "soil" or "spoil". <sup>[6]</sup> <i>Saurr</i> means "dirt" and "excrement". <sup>[7]</sup>	<i>Chronicon lethrense</i> tells that the Swedish king Athisl (Eadgils) subjugated the Danes and put a dog as king over them. The dog was called Raki and the king loved it so much that the one who told him of its death would die. The dog died while trying to stop a fight between two other dogs, and it was only by using a guessing game that man called Snjo could tell Athisl of its death and survive. <sup>[6]</sup> In <i>Gesta Danorum (VII)</i> , a Swede named Gunnar makes a dog the king of Norway. <sup>[8]</sup> In <i>Hákonar saga góða</i> , a king Eysteinn and a dog named Saurr appear in a Norwegian setting where Eysteinn makes the dog Saurr the king of	The tale of the dog king has counterparts outside of Scandinavia. <sup>[9]</sup>

			Trøndelag. <sup>[9]</sup> In <i>Skáldatál</i> , the skald <u>Erpr lútandi</u> who serves the Swedish king <u>Eysteinn Beli</u> saves his life by composing a poem for king <u>Sor</u> , who probably is <u>Saurr</u> . <sup>[10]</sup>	
<u>Geri and Freki</u>	<u>Old Norse:</u> <i>Geri og Freki</i>	"The ravenous" or "greedy one"	Two wolves who accompanied the God Odin	Mentioned in <i>Poetic Edda</i> and <i>Prose Edda</i>
Glaum	<u>Old Norse:</u> <i>Glaumr</i>	<i>Glaumr</i> means "noisy merriment" from PGmc * <i>blaumaz</i> . <sup>[11]</sup>	The horse of <u>Attila the Hun</u> , in <i>Skáldskaparmál</i> <sup>[12]</sup> and <i>Atlakvíða</i> . <sup>[13]</sup>	<i>Poetic Edda</i>
Goti	<u>Old Norse:</u> <i>Goti</i>	" <u>Goth</u> "	In Norse tradition, <u>Gunnar</u> 's horse. <sup>[14]</sup>	Mentioned in the <i>Prose Edda</i> and the <i>Poetic Edda</i> . <sup>[14]</sup>
<u>Grani</u>	<u>Old Norse:</u> <i>Grani</i>	The name means "the one with the upper lip". <sup>[14]</sup>	In Norse tradition, <u>Sigurd</u> 's horse. It is descended from <u>Sleipnir</u> , <u>Odin</u> 's horse. <sup>[15]</sup>	Mentioned in the <i>Prose Edda</i> and the <i>Poetic Edda</i> . <sup>[14]</sup>
Habrok	<u>Old Norse:</u> <i>Hábrók</i>	The name means "hawk", <sup>[16]</sup> a name derived from <i>hár</i> ("high"), <sup>[17]</sup> and <i>brók</i> ("breeches"). <sup>[18]</sup>	<u>Hrólfr kraki</u> 's hawk that he brings with him when he visits <u>Aðils</u> ( <u>Eadgils</u> ) in <u>Uppsala</u> . It kills all <u>Aðils</u> ' hawks. <sup>[19]</sup>	
Ho and Hopp	<u>Old Norse:</u> <i>Hó ok Hoppr</i>	<i>Hó</i> is an interjection and a shepherd's call, <sup>[20]</sup> and the neuter noun <i>hopp</i> means "a jump". <sup>[21]</sup>	In <i>Hrólfs saga kraka</i> , two dogs belonging to a hermit wizard named <u>Vífil</u> (one of the two meanings of the name is "pagan priest" <sup>[22]</sup> ). When the two young princes <u>Hróarr</u> ( <u>Hrothgar</u> ) and <u>Helgi</u> ( <u>Halga</u> ) hide with him, he warns them of arriving search parties by calling to them by the names of his two dogs. <sup>[23]</sup> A seeress later reveals to their enemy that Ho and Hopp referred to the boys. <sup>[23]</sup>	
Holkvir	<u>Middle High German:</u> <i>Hölkvir</i>	The name may be from PGmc * <i>halkwiaz</i> ("runner"). <sup>[24]</sup>	<u>Hagen</u> 's horse in Scandinavian tradition. <sup>[25]</sup>	
Hrafn <sup>1</sup>	<u>Old Norse:</u> <i>Hrafn</i>	" <u>raven</u> "	King <u>Eadgils</u> ' horse that he captured from <u>Onela</u> . <sup>[26]</sup>	Mentioned in the <i>Prose Edda</i> . <sup>[14]</sup>
Hrafn <sup>2</sup>	<u>Old Norse:</u> <i>Hrafn</i>	See Hrafn <sup>1</sup>	King <u>Eadgils</u> ' horse he bred from Hrafn <sup>1</sup> . <sup>[27]</sup>	Mentioned in <i>Ynglinga saga</i> , ch. 29. <sup>[27]</sup>
Huginn and	<u>Old Norse:</u>	"Thought" and	Two ravens who bring	Mentioned in <i>Poetic</i>

<u>Muninn</u>	<i>Huginn og Munin</i>	"Memory"	information to the God Odin	<i>Edda and Prose Edda</i>
Leo	<u>Latin</u> : <i>Leo</i>	Leo means "lion" in Latin. <sup>[28]</sup>	Walter of Aquitaine's horse in <i>Waltharius</i> . <sup>[28]</sup>	In <i>Rosengarten zu Worms</i> d, Walter has a lion painted on his shield. <sup>[28]</sup>
Lewe (Löwe)	<u>Middle High German</u> : <i>Lewe</i>	From MHG <i>lewe</i> ("lion"). <sup>[28]</sup>	Hildebrand's horse in <i>Virginal</i> . <sup>[28]</sup>	
Melnir	<u>Old Norse</u> : <i>Mélnir</i>	The name means "bit bearer" from ON <i>mél</i> meaning "mouth piece". <sup>[29][30]</sup>	One of the horses ridden by Hothbrodd's men mustering allies for defense against <i>Helgi Hundingsbane</i> . <sup>[31]</sup>	<i>Poetic Edda</i>
Mylnir	<u>Old Norse</u> : <i>Mýlnir</i>	The name means "the horse with a halter" from ON <i>múli</i> meaning "muzzle". <sup>[32][33]</sup>	One of the horses ridden by Hothbrodd's men mustering allies for defense against <i>Helgi Hundingsbane</i> . <sup>[31]</sup>	<i>Poetic Edda</i>
Rispa	<u>Old Norse</u> : <i>Rispa</i> , <u>Middle High German</u> : <i>*Rispe</i>	From MHG <i>rispe</i> ("branches, brushes") or <i>rispeln</i> ("to curl"). <sup>[34]</sup>	Heime's horse in the <i>Piðreks saga</i> . <sup>[34]</sup>	
Rusche	<u>Middle High German</u> : <i>Rusche</i> or <i>Röschlin</i>	Probably from MHG <i>rosch</i> , <i>rösche</i> ("quick, fresh, brave"), or MHG <i>rusch</i> ("bush"). <sup>[35]</sup>	Eckehart's horse. <sup>[35]</sup>	
Schemming	<u>Middle High German</u> : <i>Schemminc</i> , <u>Old Norse</u> : <i>Skemmingr</i>	Probably from the same root as OHG <i>scimo</i> ("shine, glitter"), referring to a white horse (cf. modern German <i>Schimmel</i> , "white horse"). <sup>[36]</sup>	Witige's horse. <sup>[36]</sup>	In the <i>Rosengarten zu Worms</i> , Dietrich exchanges Schemming for the horse Valke, while in <i>Dietrich Flucht</i> , he gives him the horse when Witige reaffirms his allegiance to Dietrich. In <i>Rabenschlacht</i> , Dietrich is unable to chase down Witige while the latter rides Schemming and Dietrich is mounted on Valke, allowing Witige to escape into the sea. In <i>Piðreks saga</i> , the horse is a gift to Witige from his father Wayland, and is related to Dietrich's

			horse Valke, Hama's horse Rispa, and Sigurd's horse Grani. Dietrich's brother Diether kills Schemming in the Battle of Gronsport, after which Witige kills him and steals his horse. <sup>[36]</sup>	
Sibilja	Old Norse: <i>Síbilja</i>	In Hindu mythology, there was a cow that in addition to providing sustenance, could be unleashed against the enemy named <i>Savala</i> ("piebald", "variegated"), and the tradition may have been transmitted to the Germanic tribes through a Middle Iranian language, such as that of the <i>Saka</i> , of which the form would have corresponded closely to Sibilja. In Scandinavia, it would have been reinterpreted as the "constantly bellowing". <sup>[37]</sup>	Sibilja was a demonic cow in <i>Ragnars saga loðbrókar</i> that the Swedish king Eysteinn used to sacrifice to so that her bellowing was insupportable. When the king was attacked the cow went in the front line and her bellowing made the enemy so confused that they started fighting each other. <sup>[38]</sup> When Ragnar's sons Agnar and Eric attacked him, she also caused mayhem by goring enemy warriors with her horns. <sup>[39]</sup> When <i>Ivar the Boneless</i> attacked, drowning her bellowing with the sound of weapons had no effect, nor had shooting her with arrows into her eyes, so Ivar killed her by being thrown upon her and crushing her under his weight. <sup>[40]</sup> There are two other cows that are killed in the saga in <i>Hvítabœr</i> , and these cows were probably derived from a Scandinavian tradition on dangerous and supernatural cows that are killed by heroes. <sup>[41]</sup> Cows that become supernaturally powerful appear in other sagas. A man-eating sacrifice-bull with a terrifying bellowing appears in <i>Hjálmpes saga ok Ælvis</i> . In <i>Olafs saga Tryggvasonar</i> , there is a king of old who worshiped a cow and drank its milk. The primordial being <i>Ymir</i> was nourished by the primeval cow <i>Auðumbla</i> , and from the Nordic Bronze Age, there are many petroglyphs with cows in cultic contexts. <sup>[42]</sup>	
Skæfaðr	Old Norse: <i>Skæfaðr</i>	The name means "race horse". <sup>[43]</sup>	Mentioned in <i>Kálfsvísa</i> as the horse of the prince of the Haddings ( <i>skati haddingja</i> ), <sup>[44]</sup> i.e. <i>Helgi Haddingjaskati</i> . <sup>[45]</sup>	Prose Edda
Slöngvir, Slungnir	Old Norse: <i>Slöngvir</i> or Old Norse: <i>Slungnir</i>	"The one who slings away". <sup>[46]</sup>	King <i>Eadgils</i> 's horse. <sup>[14]</sup>	Mentioned in the Prose Edda. <sup>[14]</sup>
Sporvitnir	Old Norse: <i>Sporvitnir</i>	<i>Spor</i> means "track" <sup>[47]</sup> and <i>vitnir</i> means "wolf" or "sword". <sup>[48]</sup>	<i>One of the horses ridden by Hothbrodd's men mustering allies for defense against Helgi Hundingsbane.</i> <sup>[31]</sup>	Poetic Edda
Svipud	Old Norse:	The name	<i>One of the horses ridden by</i>	Poetic Edda

	<i>Svipuðr</i>	means "the fast moving". <sup>[49]</sup>	<i>Hothbrodd's men mustering allies for defense against Helgi Hundingsbane.</i> <sup>[31]</sup>	
Svegjud	Old Norse: <i>Sveggjuðr</i>	The name means "the one who makes the rider vibrate". <sup>[50]</sup>	<i>One of the horses ridden by Hothbrodd's men mustering allies for defense against Helgi Hundingsbane.</i> <sup>[31]</sup>	<i>Poetic Edda</i>
Valke	Middle High German: <i>Valke</i> , Old Norse: <i>Falka</i>	Related to MHG <i>valke</i> ("falcon") and <i>val/valwe</i> ("pale"). <sup>[51]</sup>	Dietrich von Bern's horse. The horse had also earlier belonged to Wolfdietrich.	In <i>Rosengarten zu Worms</i> , Dietrich exchanges Schemming for Valke. In <i>Wolfdietrich</i> , the horse saves Wolfdietrich's life by fighting off a dragon while Wolfdietrich is asleep. In the <i>Þiðreks saga</i> , the horse comes from Háma's father Studas; the horse helps Dietrich defeat Ecke by breaking the giant's back. <sup>[52]</sup>
Val	Old Norse: <i>Valr</i>	The name means "the slain" or "carrion hawk". <sup>[53]</sup>	Mentioned as Véstein's horse in <i>Kálfsvísa</i> at the Battle on the Ice of Lake Vänern. <sup>[44]</sup> Its master Véstein appears as Weohstan in <i>Beowulf</i> . <sup>[54]</sup>	<i>Prose Edda</i>

## References

1. [Byock 1990](#), p. 113.
2. [Dutton 2015](#), p. 130.
3. [Gillespie 1973](#), p. 10.
4. [Gillespie 1973](#), p. 13.
5. [Gillespie 1973](#), p. 15.
6. [Niles 2007](#), p. 321.
7. [Cleasby & Vigfússon 1874](#), p. 515.
8. [Fisher 2015](#), pp. 497ff.
9. [Fisher 2015](#), p. 498, note 16.
10. [Faulkes 2012](#), pp. 100f.
11. [Orel 2003](#), p. 135.
12. [Faulkes 1995](#), p. 137.
13. [Hollander 1928](#), p. 338.
14. [Sundkvist 2001](#), p. 174.
15. [Hollander 1928](#), p. 253.
16. [de Vries 2000](#), p. 200.
17. [de Vries 2000](#), pp. 200, 210.
18. [Cleasby & Vigfússon 1874](#), p. 82.
19. [Byock 1998](#), pp. 59, 65, 93.
20. [Cleasby & Vigfússon 1874](#), p. 280.
21. [Cleasby & Vigfússon 1874](#), p. 279.
22. [Peterson 2007](#), p. 251.
23. [Byock 1998](#), p. 94.
24. [de Vries 2000](#), p. 280.
25. [Byock 1990](#), p. 136.
26. [Sundkvist 2001](#), pp. 172, 174.
27. [Sundkvist 2001](#), p. 172.
28. [Gillespie 1973](#), p. 89.
29. [de Vries 2000](#), p. 383.
30. [Cleasby & Vigfússon 1874](#), p. 423.
31. [Hollander 1928](#), p. 222.
32. [Cleasby & Vigfússon 1874](#), p. 439.
33. [de Vries 2000](#), pp. 394, 398.
34. [Gillespie 1973](#), p. 65.

35. Gillespie 1973, p. 113.

36. Gillespie 1973, p. 115.

37. McTurk 1991, pp. 115f.

38. Waggoner 2009, pp. 14, 22.

39. Waggoner 2009, p. 18.

40. Waggoner 2009, pp. 24f.

41. McTurk 1991, p. 117.

42. Waggoner 2009, p. 100.

43. Cleasby & Vigfússon 1874, p. 565.

44. Faulkes 2012, pp. 226f.

45. Gade 2017, p. 664.

46. Cleasby & Vigfússon 1874, p. 570.

47. Cleasby & Vigfússon 1874, p. 583.

48. de Vries 2000, p. 670.

49. de Vries 2000, p. 571.

50. de Vries 2000, p. 566.

51. Gillespie 1973, p. 44.

52. Gillespie 1973, pp. 43–44.

53. Cleasby & Vigfússon 1874, p. 676.

54. Klaeber 2008, p. 473.

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